

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 121149Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3700

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LY

SUBJ: ITALIAN EVACUATION DAY

1. THE THIRD IN THE TRINITY OF LIBYA'S ANTI-FOREIGN DAYS (BRITISH DAY IN MAY AND U.S. IN JUNE) WAS CELEBRATED WITH CUSTOMARY ECLAT AND RHETORIC ON OCTOBER 7. AJDABIA A SMALL COASTAL TOWN NEAR BENGHAZI WAS CHOSEN AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR CELEBRATION BECAUSE IT WAS ALLEDGEDLY THE SITE OF ITALIAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN WHICH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LIBYAN'S DIED DURING LATE 1920S AND EARLY 1930S.

2. RCC CHAIRMAN QADHAFI FLANKED BY RCC MEMBERS KHARROUBI AND ABU BAKAR YUNIS PRESIDED OVER THE FESTIVITIES TO WHICH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (INCLUDING THE ITALIANS) WAS CONVEYED EN MASSE BY SPECIAL FLIGHT. ADDRESSING SOME 4-5 THOUSAND (INSTEAD OF 40,000 AS PROCLAIMED BY PRESS). QADHAFI ANNOUNCED DAY WOULD HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS EID AL-THAR OR "REVENGE DAY."

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3. EXCEPT FOR PASSING SWIPE AT AMERICAN-ZIONIST

IMPERIALISM AND REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES, TWO HOUR SPEECH WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO VALOR OF LIBYANS IN FACE OF FACIST AGRESSION AND INSPRIATION IT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF LIBYANS. QADHAFI ALSO SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME HERALDING IMMINENT ARRIVAL (EARLY NEXT YEAR) OF FINAL PHASE OF LIBYA'S (I.E. QADHAFI'S) POLITICAL REVOLUTION TO A COMPLETE DEMOCRACY IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE NEITHER GOVERNORS NOR GOVERNED.

4. COMMENT: DIPLOMATIC CORPS FED BY HINTS FROM MFA HAD EXPECTED MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT OF EGYPT. QADHAFI HOWEVER HAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED EGYPT FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS (MEDIA OF COURSE HAS NOT AND CONTINUES VITRIOLIC CAMPAIGN) APPARENTLY PREFERRING TO PUBLICIZE DOMESTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROGRESS OF REVOLUTION. (TWO AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, YUGOSLAV BUILT GHARABOULI NEAR TRIPOLI AND GERMAN BUILT MARZUK, 700 MILES SOUTH OF TRIPOLI HAVE BEEN DEDICATED IN PAST WEEK IN PRESENCE OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS.)

5. FOLLOWING SPEECH QDHAFI GENIALLY RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN HIS TENT AND INVITED THEM TO SPEND NIGHT (IN NEIGHBORING TENT) SO AS TO ENJOY REMAINDER OF FESTIVITIES. BATTERED CORPS LED BY ACTING DEAN (INDIAN AMBASSADOR) POLITELY DECLINED PREFERRING TO RETURN TO TRIPOLI WHICH WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY 3AM NEXT DAY.

6. QADHAFI, THOUGH TIRED FROM TWO HOUR SPEECH, LOOKED WELL AND WAS IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS WHICH IS OFTEN THE CASE WHEN HE IS CAMPING IN THE DESERT WITH HIS OFFICERS AND PEOPLE.
CARLE

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